



WASHRAG™

www.washarc.org



Volume 4 Issue 11

November 2002

N3SH
WA3SH

Wireless Association of South Hills

45th Pa. QSO Party: Wow!

N3SH

On Friday the 11th of October, six of us drove to Vowinkel to get ready for our Multi-Multi entry in the Pennsylvania QSO Party. In attendance were K3VX, NØPEU, N3SBF, W3SRL, W3WH, and Murphy. All of us except Murphy worked hard on Friday to get antennas up and stations ready for Saturday. Murphy's contribution to Friday's effort was to allow us to leave a bad piece of coax on the 2 meter Yagi that Richie and Steve worked so hard to install on the 58 foot tower. So much for our plans to stay in touch on the 146.955 Repeater and to monitor packet spots. Murphy's other contribution was to allow us to use a bad coax connector on the horizontal loop's feedline (after the contest was over, Steve discovered it — no wonder the loop only worked so-so).

By the end of the day on Friday, we had a 160 meter inverted vee, an off center fed dipole, a full wave 160 meter loop which didn't work real well — see above, and an eight element two meter Yagi which wouldn't bring up the local repeater. But with all this, we all had fun and chef Richie fed us very well!

We all slept well Friday night (at least I did — there's a rumor that I snore, but since I've never heard anything, it's still just a rumor). On Saturday, we finished setting up the stations and were ready to go on at noon.

Shortly after we started, we discovered that the CW station was useless every time Shawn keyed his rig. We did everything we reasonably could to minimize the problem, but in the end we all just had to put up with each other's interference and do the best we could.

By the time the contest began, NØVLR had joined us, and he brought his world famous two-alarm chili (both with and without beans). It was delicious! By the end of Saturday, even with the antenna and interference problems, we all hit the sack having had another very good ham radio day.

On Sunday all three stations concentrated on finishing our second "clean sweep" of all 67 counties in a row. Shawn NØPEU had the honor this year of getting our last three counties about 2:00 Sunday afternoon. Way to go Shawn!

After that, we shut down a bit early to break down the stations and clean up the camp. Even though we could have and probably should have scored higher than we did, I'm certain that we all can say without reservation that we had a really good time at the 2002 Pennsylvania QSO Party, and at the end of the day, that's what it's all about!

— 73, Bill Hill W3WH

WA3SH

It was a foggy morning as Dan KB3HVN, Kevin N3HKQ, Rick KB3IAC, Alex KB3IRQ, Lori KB3GMU, Frank KB3FZU, and my dog George (affectionately known as K9DOG) made the trek to the Laurel Ridge to operate WA3SH Westmoreland/Somerset County Line for the PA QSO Party. Rick and Alex set up the shelter and the all-important coffee pot and then helped erect the antennas. The first antenna to go up was the hex beam which was set for 20 meters; it was challenging but that is normal. It sure looked great

(PA QSO Party Continued on page 7)

Annual WASH
Christmas / Holiday
Party
Thursday,
December 12th

The Annual **WASH** Christmas/ Holiday Party & December meeting will be held on Thursday, December 12th, at **Al's Café**, 440 McMurray Road, Bethel Park, starting at 6:30 PM until ???

Cost will be \$14.99 per adult, children under 3 – 10 half price (children under 3 are free). As always, the party is open to all **WASH** members and their families, and to friends of the club.

If you are planning to go, please let me know as soon as possible. Call me at (412) 884-1466, call me on the 146.955 repeater, or e-mail me at n3sb@libcom.com. Also, I need the money by November 30th. You can get the money to me at the next meeting or you can mail me a check, or call me to make alternate arrangements.

The menu will feature two entrees, salad, two side dishes and ice cream for dessert. There will also be a Chinese Auction, and installation of the 2003 officers. Everything was fantastic last year, and we expect it to be as good or better this year too!

I know we will have a nice time because we have good company! Hope to see you there!

— Carol Danko KB3GMN, Ways & Means Chairman

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Next Meeting: November 14th, 2002

The next monthly meeting of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** will be Thursday, November 14th, at the **John McMillan Presbyterian Church**, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, starting at 7:00 PM.

Tonight is Election Night! Final nominations and elections for our 2003 officers will be taking place, so please make the meeting if at all possible!

Talk-in on the 146.955(-) N3RN/R and 443.650(+) N3BV/R Repeaters (131.8 PL). All members, guests and interested parties invited!

WASH FM Net
9:00 PM ET
Sunday Nights
on the 146.955
and 443.650
Repeaters
Did You Know

Pittsburgh's KDKA Radio began broadcasting in November 1920. But it's not the "world's oldest" radio station or even the "oldest" broadcaster — when they say that, they mean that they hold the first license to broadcast ever issued, which is not exactly the same thing!

LOOKING AHEAD:

• **WASH Christmas / Holiday Party Thursday, December 12th, 2002**

• **WASH 3rd Annual 2M Contest January 11th, 2003**

• **WASHFest 2003, February 23rd, 2003**

November 2002

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
November WASHNet Net Control Stations: 11/03 Hank KB3FNFM 11/10 Michael KB3HFP 11/17 Bill W3WH 11/24 Carol KB3GMN	Want to volunteer to be a Net Control Station? Please contact FM Net Manager Kevin N3HKQ	December WASHNet Net Control Stations: 12/01 Paul NOVLR 12/08 Kevin N3HKQ 12/15 Joseph KB3ENX 12/22 Hank KB3FNFM 12/29 Michael KB3HFP			1 Elco ARS Meeting	2 ARRL Sweepstakes CW WPA Hilltoppers VE Test RA Erie VE Test Somerset Co ARC Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
3 ARRL Sweepstakes CW Ellwood City ARA Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net KB3FNM NCS	4 Breezeshooter's Net 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	5 Butler Co ARA Meeting S H B P & M Meeting Skyview RS Meeting Carnegie Tech RC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net	6 Uniontown ARC Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co SkyWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	7 WACOM Meeting WACOM VE Test Penn State ARC Meeting RA Erie Meeting Uniontown ARC Net	8	9 Breezeshooters VE Test Tri County CW VE Test 2 Rivers ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Breakfast Foothills ARC Breakfast Quad Co ARC Breakfast North Hills ARC Elmer Net
10 OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net KB3HFP NCS	11 Veteran's Day Bum of the Month Lunch ARL Lawrence Co Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	12 Foothills ARC Meeting Coke Center ARC Meeting Nittany ARC Meeting Ft.Venango M & K C Meeting Punxsatawney AARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net	13 North Hills ARC Meeting Laurel Highlands VHF Society Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	14 WASH Meeting	15 2 Rivers ARC Meeting Quad Co ARC Meeting	16 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB Foothills ARC VE Test Butler Co ARA VE Test Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net
17 ARRL Sweepstakes SSB Elk Co ARC Meeting OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net W3WH NCS	18 Monessen ARC Meeting 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	19 Steel City ARC Meeting Tri-County CW ARC Meeting Juniata Valley ARC Meeting Pymatuning ARC Meeting McKean Co ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net	20 Huntington Co ARC Meeting Allegheny Co SkyWarn Net Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net	21 Triple 'A' ARA Meeting Greene Co ARC Meeting Somerset Co ARC Meeting Cumberland Valley ARA Mtng. WACOM Board Meeting Penn State ARC Social Night Uniontown ARC Net	22	23 SW Pa Packet Group Meeting North Hills ARC Elmer Net
24 OCWA Pittsburgh Net South One ARES Net North Hills ARC Teen Net Somerset Co ARC Net WASH FM Net KB3GMN NCS	25 2 Rivers ARC Net Triple "A" ARA Net Beaver Co Public Service Net	26 Mercer Co ARC Meeting Triangle ARC Meeting North Hills ARC Net WACOM Net SATERN Net GPVHFS Swap'n'Shop	27 Fort Armstrong WA Meeting Steel City ARC Social Night Allegheny Co ARES Net Westmoreland Co ARES Net		29 National Turkey Leftovers Day	30 Hanukkah WASH Breakfast Nittany ARC Coffee Call North Hills ARC Elmer Net

WASH 2002 OFFICERS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

President	Paul Lusardi NØVLR
VP/Secretary	Frank Bobro KB3FZU
VP/Treasurer	Mark Stabryla N3RDV

AND WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT:

N3SH / WA3SH Trustee
N3SH / WA3SH QSL Manager
VE Team Liaison
Webmaster
Quartermaster
N3SH/WA3SH WASH Net Managers
FM Net (2 Meter & 70 cm)
Digital Net (10 Meter)
WASHFest 2003 Co-Chairman
(South Hills Hamfest)
Activities & Operating Events
Field Day 2002 Chairman
Ways & Means
Media Communications
Allegheny Co ARES Representative

Steve Lane W3SRL
Paul Lusardi NØVLR
Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL
Bob Sanford AA3FI
Harold Rosenberger KB3CPI

Kevin Smith N3HKQ
(open)
Steve Lane W3SRL
Bill Hill W3WH
Bill Hill W3WH
Larry Comden K3VX
Carol Danko KB3GMN
Kevin DeRose N3KFD
Ben Williams KB3ERQ

CLUB-AFFILIATED REPEATERS:

Mt. Lebanon	N3RNX/R	146.955 - PL 131.8
Mt. Lebanon	W3SRL/R	442.550 + PL 131.8
Canonsburg	N3BV/R	I-Link #13181 (courtesy of N3UE)
		443.650 + PL 131.8

N3SH/WA3SH WASHNet, the weekly on-air net of WASH, meets every Sunday Night, 9:00 PM ET, on the 146.955 & 443.650 repeaters. All radio amateurs, WASH members or not, are welcome to join in!

The **10 METER DIGITAL N3SH/WA3SH WASHNET** is on Hiatus until further notice. Please contact Paul NØVLR for more information.

"The **WASHRag™**" (formerly "**The Mariner™**") is the Official Newsletter of the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC. (WASH)**

Published Monthly with occasional Special Editions as warranted.

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The **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** was founded on August 23rd, 1993, as the original **SOUTH HILLS AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**, and operated under that name through 1998. WASH was also known briefly in late 1998 as the **N3SH AMATEUR RADIO CLUB**. It is not in any way affiliated with the "South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc." and is not responsible for that group, its members, or its actions in any way, shape, or form.

As always, special thanks to the owners of both the N3RNX/R Repeater System and the N3BV/R Repeater System for permitting the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.** and its members to use their repeaters for club purposes. Special thanks also to our webmaster, Bob Sanford AA3FI, and to Ed Wolf N3UE for providing space on-line for back issues of "**The WASHRag™**" which can be found at www.washarc.org or <http://doit.pgh.net/~wolfie/washrag.htm>

WASH Amateur Radio Club News Briefs

Next WASH VE Test January 16th!

The Next WASH VE exam sessions will be **Thursday, January 16th, 2002, 7:00 PM**, at the **John McMillan Presbyterian Church**, 875 Clifton Road, Bethel Park, PA. Talk-in on the 146.955 MHz and 443.650 MHz repeaters. All examiners are ARRL VEC affiliated.

Walk-ins are always welcome, but if you plan on attending the test session, please contact VE Team Liason Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL:

Telephone (724) 746-9235 or E-Mail: n3zel@fyi.net

Please bring the following to your test session:

Picture ID or other suitable identification (2 forms of ID required)

Pen / Pencil / Calculator

Original FCC license plus a copy of license (if upgrading)

Original CSCE plus a copy of CSCE (if upgrading)

Check or Cash in the amount of \$10.00 (payable to: ARRL VEC)

Thursday, April 17th, 2003

Future test dates: Thursday, July 17th, 2003

Thursday, October 16th, 2003

Thursday, January 15th, 2004

Remember: Elections for 2003 WASH Officers

At the November Meeting, we will be accepting additional nominations & then voting for the position of Club President (1 year term) and Club Vice President/Secretary (2 year term)

The WASH Breakfast Gang met on October 26th as always at **Dietz's Restaurant**. Our biggest turnout in quite some time (possibly ever), present & accounted for were KB3ERQ, N3ZEL, N3ZNI, KB3FNM, K3VX, W3RJM, W9UK, W3WH, W3RWS, W3VFA, WN3VAW, KB3GMN, KB3GOT, KB3FZU & KB3GMU. Subjects included the Pa QSO Party, car repairs, the Middle East, Chechyan Rebels, Field Day antics, WW 2 & military aircraft, computer software, repeater QRM and clam chowder.

Change of Venue: Our next Club Breakfast will be Saturday, November 30th, at the **Ponderosa Restaurant**, Wal Mart Plaza, Washington (right behind the Cracker Barrel). We're going to give Dietz's Restaurant a break and make it a little easier for some of the Washington contingent to join us — and we've also invited the WACOM gang to come down too. So put down the turkey leftovers, come down & share a cup of coffee & a good time with us!

QRZ? Familiar voice, unfamiliar call means that N3PN is the new vanity call of Nelson ex-KB3FGO. He got his first choice, too. Congratulations!

JOTA Report: Rick KB3IAC & Paul NØVLR were on location in Confluence, PA at the site of a Webelo camping trip to introduce amateur radio to 20 scouts on JOTA weekend. After setting up the club's off-center fed dipole and the IC-738 rig, several scouts showed interest in talking to people around the world and had many questions about the hobby. One particular father/son team indicated that their interested in studying for the exam. We were able to establish communications with several stateside hams on 80M/40M and had a couple of scouts bravely step up to the microphone and say a few words. Due to the crowded band conditions and our low elevation, we were not able to establish and hold a frequency for very long. Paul NØVLR has committed to perform another demonstration for the scouts, at an upcoming scout meeting this year. — NØVLR

Preliminary Indications from our friends in the Butler Co ARA is that their hamfest saw an attendance increase of almost 2400 people this year. Nice to know that **WASHFest** isn't the only hamfest seeing attendance way up lately!

Did you say WASHFest? Yup. Hard to believe, but we're only not quite four months away (with the holidays and old) from our ninth annual hamfest. Start making your plans! Incidentally, PennDOT is now promising that the Route 88 construction (between Route 51 & McNeilly Road) that was supposed to be done by mid-October will now be completed by the end of December...

That also means that we're also only two and a half months away from the WASH 2 Meter contest. Complete rules on Page 8. Note that it's not just an FM contest this year, but we're adding SSB & CW for those of you with multi-mode rigs. It'll be a heck of a lot of fun!

DX Means Never Having to Say You're Sorry... An unnamed club member, who is an active contester & DX'er (any resemblance to your editor is purely coincidental) took a break, early Sunday morning of the CQ WW SSB contest, to try and work a Japanese station on 80 meter CW. Even turned on his amp to do so (he was running the 'test barefoot'), which proved to be fatal — the amp's final tubes spectacularly self-destructed. (And no, he didn't work the JA) Anyone out there with a spare set of 572-B tubes?



The October WASH Rogue's Gallery, a/k/a the WASH Breakfast Gang, sat still long enough at the end of Breakfast for Jacqué N3ZEL to snap off a few photos. Photo courtesy of & © Copyright 2002 Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

Don't forget that voting for ARRL WPA Section Manager and ARRL Atlantic Division Director is still going on through mid-November.

If you haven't already sent in your ballots, don't put it off any longer — if you wait too long, your votes won't count at all!



A very pleased Alex KB3IRQ & proud father Rick KB3IAC show off their CSCE's shortly after the VE test session.

Photo courtesy of & ©2002 Rick Bell KB3IAC

Join WASH! Pay Your 2003 Dues, Get the Rest of 2002 "Free!" Membership Application Page 11!

Minutes, October 10th Meeting

Frank Bobro KB3FZU, VP/Secretary, WASH

Paul, NØVLR, called the meeting to order at 19:04 hours. There were 29 members and guests in attendance.

A moment of silence was observed for recent Silent Keys and other deserving persons.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the August meeting as published in the September newsletter. The motion was voted on and passed.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer (N3RDV): Mark reported the club's account balances.

Secretary (KB3FZU): Frank gave an update on the WA3SH operation. It will be at the Laurel Ridge on the Westmoreland / Somerset County Line. He would like to be at the site by 10 AM so that the group can be ready to go at the start of the contest.

VE Report (N3ZEL): The next VE test session is coming up. It will be held at the John McMillan Presbyterian Church on October 17th at 7 PM.

Repeaters (N3RNX & W3SRL): No report here but there is a repeater update under Old Business.

FM Net Report (N3HKQ): Kevin is setting up a rotating schedule for net control. He is currently booked through mid-November. See Kevin if you need the script or would like to volunteer. It is easy and fun to be net control.

Ways and Means (KB3GMN): Carol is looking for ideas to raise money for the club.

If we do not do raffles, we will need to find another source of income. Next: the Christmas Party at Al's Café. A show of hands was taken of those interested in attending; about 18 people were interested. It is tentatively scheduled for Thursday December 12th at 6:30 PM (the normal meeting night). The cost would be approximately \$13-15 per person. Ted, W4ZE, motioned to charge \$20 with the excess to go to the club's treasury; Bob, W3RWS, seconded. Ted amended the amount to \$17.50. After much discussion, Ted withdrew the motion. Bob, W3RWS, motioned to charge \$20.00 for the party and have the club pick up the cost of a radio that is raffled off. None in favor. Bill, W3WH, made a motion to have the Christmas Party at Al's Café. Shawn, NØPEU, seconded the motion. It was voted on and passed. Dave, N3IDH, motioned to place a deposit at Al's Café, Ron, WN3VAW, seconded.

Public Service (N3RDV): No Report.

Contests (K3VX): Sweepstakes is in November. The 1st weekend is CW, the 3rd weekend is phone. The club is having its' 2 meter FM contest in January, please plan to participate. A motion was made to open the contest to sideband & CW by Bob, W3RWS; Bill, W3WH, seconded. It was voted on and passed - one vote to oppose. JOTA is the third full weekend of October. Scouts get on the air and try to talk to fellow scouts. Paul has some handouts with frequencies that the scouts will be using. Rick, KB3IAC, and Paul, NØVLR, will be at Confluence, PA trying to make some contacts. Paul will be running phone and SSTV. W3KWH and other stations also plan to be on the air.

Newsletter (WN3VAW): The printer did not get the paper copies of the newsletter to Ron, so there were none to mail. Please let Ron know your e-mail address and we can get the newsletter to you electronically. The newsletter is available to anyone.

President's Report (NØVLR): This month we are taking nominations. Because of other commitments, Paul, NØVLR, is not able to run for a second term as President. VP / Secretary Nominations: Paul, NØVLR, nominated Frank, KB3FZU. Paul motioned to close, Ron seconded. President Nominations: Bob, W3RWS, nominated Bill, W3WH. Ron, WN3VAW, nominated Larry, K3VX. Michael, KB3HFP, nominated Ron, WN3VAW. Ed, N3UE, nominated Ritchie, N3SBF. Bill, W3WH, motioned to close, Carol, KB3GMN, seconded.

Old Business: The old duplexer is on the sale block and Steve, W3SRL, reports that he has an interested buyer at the asking price. Thank you to the club for helping with the cost of the new duplexer. The 146.955 machine may need to run with PL tone at all times. If anyone needs to add PL tone to their equipment please speak up. It is easy to do and someone in the club can help get it done. There is also the possibility that the repeater's PL tone may need to be changed to a non standard tone. The standard tone is 131.8.

Ed, N3ZNI, made a contact about the hamfest flyers. 1000 printed flyers with mailing labels and postage will cost approximately \$500.00. Paul, NØVLR, motioned to study this further. Ultimately it would be for the hamfest committee to decide on this matter.

Steve asked that the club pay the invoice of the repeater insurance. It was voted on and passed.

(Meeting Minutes Continued on page 5)

WASH Spotlight: N3RNX/R



On the morning of October 5th the N3RNX Repeater got the new duplexer that WASH voted to buy at the September meeting. Escorting the new cavities to their new home is ½ of Steve W3SRL, Richie N3SBF, Dan KB3HVN, Ted WN3BOJ and Larry K3VX. Lurking around somewhere out of camera view is Pete N3RNX. Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2002 Bill Hill W3WH

Every month we're going to try and feature a different WASH club member and/or something about them, or a club or club related activity that we're involved in, in the WASH Spotlight. Submissions for the WASH Spotlight should be submitted to WN3VAW.

Monthly WASH Breakfast Saturday, November 30th

Please join us for the next WASH Breakfast! We get together on the LAST Saturday of every month for a chance to informally sit down, shoot the breeze, compare notes, and just have a good time together!

This month, join us and members of WACOM for a joint breakfast at the Ponderosa Restaurant, Wal Mart Plaza (behind the Cracker Barrel) off Route 19 in Washington PA.

Start time is about 8 AM until whenever. Monitor 146.955 & 443.650 for talk-in or any last minute changes. All are welcome, WASH members or not, amateurs or not!

See you there!

Wireless Association of South Hills Membership

AA3FI	KB3GMN	NØPEU	N3TBK	W3RWS
AA3JS	KB3GMO	NØVLR	N3UE	W3SRL
K3BZW	KB3GMP	NØWPV	N3UIW	W3VE
K3OL	KB3GMU	N2QIV	N3VEH	W3VFA
K3VX	KB3GOT	N3AWF	N3WPT	W3WH
K3WR	KB3GZG	N3BSQ	N3XI	W4ZE
K9LZ	KB3GUZ	N3CCC	N3YPB	WA3JPP
KA3PPH	KB3HFP	N3CZZ	N3YQY	WB3BPH
KA3TFB	KB3HVN	N3FZ	N3ZCG	WB3GTL
KA3UPY	KB3IAC	N3HKQ	N3ZEG	WN3BOJ
KA3WZO	KB3IRQ	N3IDH	N3ZEH	WN3VAW
KA3YTS	KB3QX	N3INT	N3ZEL	Barbara Misic
KB3ANH	KC2JJB	N3KFD	N3ZNI	
KB3CPI	KC6VLV	N3QMV	N4MIS	K3EED (SK)
KB3DCO	KD3JV	N3RDV	N8DPW	N3KEH (SK)
KB3ENX	KE3XB	N3RHT	W3GEL	N3OBD (SK)
KB3EPI	KE7FD	N3RNX	W3HND	N3SKR (SK)
KB3ERQ	KE8RN	N3SBF	W3JAF	W3ZLK (SK)
KB3FGO	KQ3DX	N3SRC	W3RJM	
KB3FNM				
KB3FQT				
KB3FZU				

Through October 31st, 2002

List complied by

Mark Stabryla N3RDV, Vice President/Treasurer

EE 010S

Information courtesy Brad Parola KB3HQE, Vice President, Penn State ARC

EE 010S is the course catalog number for Penn State's Freshman Seminar, which helps acclimate new students to college life.

This year, part of the course during the first half of the Fall semester included exposure to Amateur Radio. The students were shown how to tune radios like the Ten Tec Pegasus, they received PSK 31 signals, and took a tour of the world famous Rock Springs Antenna Test Range run by Dr. Jim Breakall WA3FET (the K3CR trustee and owner of contest station WP3R).

Early in October, those students who were interested were given the opportunity to take their Technician class tests. A total of 15 students to date have passed their tests and have received or are awaiting their new licenses!

Thanks to a startup fund from UPAC that was entrusted to WA3FET, each of the new amateurs received a Yaesu VX-1 handheld and have been encouraged to join the weekly PSARC Club and Centre County Public Service nets. They have also been involved in two Fox Hunts, looking for a hidden transmitter. The first one was an "on foot" fox hunt on the Penn State campus, the second covered the entire State College area and involved doppler directional antenna arrays on top of the hunter's vehicles.

The Penn State ARC is keeping these new amateurs and their members busy. They have plans to activate K3CR at an upcoming "Late Night", along with other student organizations, on a future Friday evening from the Hetzel Student Union Building (HUB). They are also planning to operate K3CR during a future PSU Football Weekend, although probably from the HUB and not from outside Beaver Stadium (surely there's one or more tailgaters with HF mobile, isn't there?).

For those alumni who've been wondering, yes, K3CR is still located in 202 Engineering Unit "E." The station presently consists of a Yaesu FT-1000MP Mark V HF Transceiver, Yaesu FT-847 HF/VHF/UHF Transceiver, Alpha 87A HF Amplifier, and an Icom PCR-1000 All mode receiver

For more information on these and other events involving K3CR, contact PSARC VP Brad Parola KB3HQE at bbp107@psu.edu, or visit the current PSARC club web site now at located at <http://www.clubs.psu.edu/k3cr/>.

(Meeting Minutes Continued from page 4)

New Business: Bob, W3RWS, thanked the WASH club for the thank you letter to W3KWH. It was published in the W3KWH's newsletter.

Good of the Order: Michael, KB3HFP, reports that the scanner net is on the air the 1st Saturday on the 146.88 repeater after the Elmer net. Greg, KQ3DX, has again reserved 6 rooms at the University of Dayton for the Dayton Hamvention. Gary KB3GUZ, has joined the club.

PA QSO Party (Bill W3WH): Ed, N3ZNI, and Dave, KB3GOT, will be mobile. N3SH will be in Clarion County. WA3SH will be on the Westmoreland / Somerset County line. If you do not participate at one of the club stations, please operate from home; send in your logs and list that you are a member of WASH. WASH would like to have a strong showing of club participation so that we could apply to be the special bonus station next year.

Motion to Adjourn: Made by Bob, W3RWS, and seconded by Shawn, NØPEU. The motion was voted on and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 20:25.

Dayton Hamvention® 2003

University of Dayton Room Reservations

Greg KQ3DX has reserved six suites again at the University of Dayton for Dayton 2003. Each suite has two two-bed rooms, a kitchenette, bathroom, and living room area, and comfortably holds 4 people. Cost is expected to once again be about \$80 per suite per night (a small increase over last year). If you are interested, please contact Greg at kq3dx@hotmail.com. This won't commit you to anything yet — he's just trying to get a head count so that we make sure we have enough room for all! Greg expects to be billed for the rooms in January.

Silent Keys



James Allen Wasson KB3ESR, 76, State College, PA, August 29th
Don McDaniel KJ3Q, formerly of Plum Borough, PA, September 17th
Howard Franklin Keck K3VGS, 72, State College, PA, September 28th

You Might Be A WASH Member If...

Michael Aquilina III KB3HFP

1. If your spouse calls you on the .955 repeater instead of calling you to dinner
2. If you can quote articles from any **WASHRag** issue in the past two years
3. If you want a **WASH** life membership for Christmas
4. If NØVLR is your hero
5. If WN3VAW and other past club presidents are your heroes.
6. If you can name 6 **WASH** members.
7. ... and their callsigns ...
8. ... and their license classes.
9. If your idea of good interpersonal communication means remembering 146.955 / 131.8 / meeting second Thursday of the month / please come to the meeting.
10. If you look forward to Christmas only for the Christmas Party at Al's Cafe.
11. If you use an antenna modeling program to design your clothesline
12. ... and you get some ideas regarding clothesline materials ...
13. ... and you have to warn the XYL not to touch said clothesline when you're transmitting.
14. If your family is going on vacation in February, you suddenly have to pull over to use the bathroom at the Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall.
15. If you have **WASHRag** issues displayed anywhere in your work area, or anywhere at home other than the shack. (What nice wallpaper...)
16. If you carry on a one-hour debate over the exact club polices on VE testing before you conduct a five-minute test. (No offense to the **WASH** VE team!)
17. If you are convinced that if we only tried, we could pass four hours just on new business.
18. If you have ever set up a 286 in your shack for the sole purpose of reminding you of **WASH** events.
19. If you know the entire floor plan of John McMillan Presbyterian Church.
20. ...including where one might find extension cords or tables or extra chairs to borrow for the meeting.
21. If you own "Official **WASH**" anything.
22. If you've thrown an antenna party and invited the **WASH** antenna team to improve your businesses radio system.
23. If you've bought more than five items from **WASHRag** classifieds.
24. If you've memorized the WHOIS information for www.washarc.org.
25. If you aim to make your screensaver the exact same one used at the **WASHFest** test bench booth.
26. If you have more toys than your kids.
27. If you have a habit of destroying things in order to see how they work
28. If you can remember the names and calls of everyone in the club, but not your anniversary.
29. If you have memorized the Big List 'O Local Nets and have listened to or checked into most of them already.
30. If, sad because you couldn't check into the Eastern Ohio ARES net, you built a 2 meter beam.
31. If you wonder why, somehow, your picture gets into almost every **WASHRag** issue.
32. ... and you expect a conspiracy.
33. If you can do CW at 150 wpm but can't read your own handwriting.
34. If, for most of June and July, you mumble "WPA, that's WHISKEY PAPA ALPHA, WPA, WPA, WPA, this is N3SH!" to yourself.
35. If you CAN remember where you parked your car because of the **WASH** bumper sticker, the loading coil, and the five antennas.
36. If you have more friends in the **WASH** club than anywhere else.
37. If you think that when people on other clubs' repeaters yawn, it's because they didn't get enough sleep.
38. If you spend more on the .955 machine than your computer or car.
39. If you know what WASH stands for.
40. You know that a **WASHFest** is not a washing machine company's expo.
41. If you've ever bought (to "save money") a few Motorola EMS VHF radios at Dayton, and then bought custom-made Motorola proprietary crystals (146.955/146.355), and then tone boards with 131.8 in them, and then realized with all the money you spent you could have bought a nice used HT at the **WASHFest**.
42. When driving you see a license plate with the letters K3XXX / N3XXX / W3XXX, and you feel compelled to pull out your PalmPilot and check to see if he's a **WASH** member.
43. When you have to go to the bathroom, you wait until bladder meltdown, because you can't bear to stop listening to the exciting new business.
44. You actually read all the way to the end of this article.
45. Your funny post to the **WASH** Reflector becomes an article in the next issue of the **WASHRag**.

Waiting for N3ZNI Mobile... Or Someone Like Him

Right: "Doctor" Ed N3ZNI performing emergency field surgery on the power cable for the N3ZNI/M automatic antenna tuner. Seems that they grabbed the wrong cable and left the right one back in 84 PA... Photo courtesy of and ©2002 Dave Wagner KB3GOT



Below: Steve W3SRL and Paul NØVLR operating one of the N3SH rigs outdoors... now Paul, about that chilli you guys had for lunch... photo courtesy of and ©2002 Larry Comden K3VX



Above: Assembling the 144/444 Lightning Bolt Quad at WA3SH (thanks for the antenna donation to Nelson N3PN!) (left to right) N3HKQ, KB3HVN, KB3IRQ. Photo courtesy of and ©2002 Rick Bell KB3IAC



Right: Three transmitters, no waiting, WA3SH QRV! (left to right) Kevin N3HKQ, Alex KB3IRQ, Frank KB3FZU, Dan KB3HVN. Photo courtesy of and ©2002 Rick Bell KB3IAC



Left: Shawn NØPEU at another N3SH rig. Photo courtesy of & ©2002 Larry Comden K3VX

Reported WASH Club Member Scores, 2002 Pennsylvania QSO Party

Call	County	80/160		Single Operator Stations				
		CW	Phone	Counties	Sections	Bonus	Total	
W4ZE	WAS			768	67	65	1000	102,376.0
WN3VAW	ALL	36	14	341	64	36	1000	44,400.0
N3ZEL	WAS			287	65	25	100	25,930.0
KB3FZU	WAS			194	52	25	600	15,538.0
N3KFD	ALL	45	13	41	40	9	600	7,974.5
W3RJM	ALL			130	41	20		7,930.0
N3HKQ	WAS			43	32	4	200	1,748.0

Call	County	80/160		Multi Operator / Club Stations				
		CW	Phone	Counties	Sections	Bonus	Total	
N3SH	CLA	154	118	628	67	55	800	136,586.0
WA3SH	WES/SOM			269	54	46	400	27,300.0

Call	Active Counties	80/160		Mobile & Rover Stations				
		CW	Phone	Counties	Sections	Bonus	Total	
N3ZNI/M	[Still fighting with Win EQF to figure out his total score at newsletter deadline]							
NØVLR/M	1		42	15	3	200	1,456.0	

Notes:

NØVLR/M operated in 5 counties but only had 10+QSO's in one.

Right: Evening at WA3SH, it gets cool up in the mountains! Foreground Frank KB3FZU, Background Dan KB3HVN?

Photo courtesy of & ©2002 Rick Bell KB3IAC



Photos and comments from the WASH Members & Club Station Operators from the 2002 Pennsylvania QSO Party



Above: Bill W3WH busy at the N3SH controls. Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2002 Larry Comden K3VX



Above: Frank KB3FZU declining to share lunch with George K9DOG, with Lori KB3GMU in the back. Photo taken by Dan KB3HVN, courtesy of &©2002 Frank Bobro KB3FZU

My humble offering (6 hours of operation complete with kitchen trips for cake) for the 2002 PA QSO party that will be donated to the club aggregate score . I had a great time. See 'yinz next year and 'aht! — Kevin DeRose N3KFD

Best start I've had in a long, long time — 40 counties in just the first 90 minutes. Ended Saturday with 63 Counties, and I'd heard at least 2 of the remaining ones I needed. A sweep was in sight, but it was not to be as other obligations limited my Sunday operating hours. Still, I'm very happy with the score, and I'll be back next year — I'll get that blasted sweep yet! — Ron Notarius WN3VAW

This is my second year operating the Pa QSO Party. This is always a very enjoyable contest. The cooperation among stations by letting others break in to work a particular station says a lot for the caliber of the PAQ participant. I wish to think all the rovers and mobiles that traveled many miles to make many counties available.

I would like particularly give my thanks Ed and Dave, operating as N3ZNI/M, who went out of their way to go through Clinton County and permit me to make my clean sweep. Ed and Dave were able to give 11 stations their last county for clear sweeps Sunday afternoon. — Ted Huf W4ZE



Above: Up in the clouds on top of Laurel Ridge along US 30 at the Somerset / Westmoreland County Line, WA3SH Portable. Thanks to all concerned for permitting us to use the site, KB3FZU for making the arrangements, and special thanks to WACOM for letting the WA3SH crew borrow the WACOM Trailer! Photo courtesy of & ©Copyright 2002 Rick Bell KB3IAC

(PA QSO PartyContinued from page 1)

connected to a rotor at the top of WACOM's portable tower.

The next item on the agenda was to get the 2 meter / 70 cm antenna erected. Thanks to Steve, W3SRL, for the use of his portable guyed pole, we got this antenna in the air. We even remembered to tie a rope to the back of it to allow us to move it around.

Assembly was also under way on the ground-mounted vertical, and then the real fun began. How many hams does it take to place a rope in a tree to support a wire antenna? Apparently one more than we had. After a frustrating battle that was won by gravity, we finally decided to just get it off the ground. — I think we managed about 15 feet. But, as I recall the map of the parking lot, the G5RV antenna was just about on the county line, give or take a few feet.

With the antennas in the air, it was time to begin operating. Dan set up his radio and, after Kevin helped set up the tuner, began to work on 40 meters. Kevin went to his radio and made a few contacts on 2 meters. With hindsight being what it

is, I wish we had put out the word that we would be on 2 meters. Everyone that we heard we were able to work. We could have made some great contacts here — maybe next time. I began to call CQ on 20 meters. This being my first QSO party I was expecting a lot of Pennsylvania Sections. I wasn't hearing them — I was hearing mostly states. After a while, I looked at Dan and said, "Are you working any counties?" He said that he was working a lot of counties, but not much else. We exchanged notes and went on . . . ah, propagation.

I took a drive across the street to the local restaurant, which was the real reason I suggested this site — and you thought it was the elevation of 2,800 feet! Being that this was a ham radio contest, I ordered my favorite from the menu - a ham sandwich to go. Then it was back to the site where K9DOG admired my meal, or did he want a bite of it?

Then it was back to the radio and when I searched for a new frequency to call CQ, I found a vacancy at 14.280 MHz, the suggested operating frequency! I parked there and called CQ until the band conditions changed. As the afternoon progressed, the fog faded in and out. There were times we could see the top of the 300-foot tower behind the building and then a few seconds later we could not see the tower at all.

As evening fell, I began to work 80 meters and heard Ted, W4ZE, calling CQ. He allowed me to share the frequency. He would work a station and, after he was done, would say, "Stand by for another contact," then I would work the station and turn it back to Ted. We really boosted our score by operating like this and it took some of the other contestants by surprise to hear two stations sharing a frequency — in a contest!

It was getting late and dark, so everyone broke down the site and secured it at 8:45 PM local time. This outing was a lot of fun and I hope that the club can participate as a group in more activities similar to this contest. Now, the Whiskey Charlie call, please copy number 195 from Somerset and Westmoreland counties. . . .

— Frank Bobro KB3FZU

The site was being dismantled all around Frank KB3FZU as he literally operated until the plug was pulled. The consummate contesteer, if we had given Frank more time, he would have taken it.

— Kevin Smith N3HKQ

N3ZEL Here is my humble offering to the group effort. ... 65 of 67 Counties (Yes, got Clinton County repeatedly this year, just missed Juniata & Monroe), 24 sections + DX, 287 QSO's. And yes, I know, other people can cite the minute they heard both Juniata and Monroe, but I refer to the puzzle of the tree falling in the forest. If a county is active and I don't hear it, does it really exist? Anyway it was fun and every year I vow to try harder the next!

— Jacqué Gosselin N3ZEL

3rd Annual WASH 2M Contest!

This January will mark the Third Annual WASH 2 Meter Contest. We've already had a lot of interest in it, and this year promises to be even more exciting! In response to input from our participants, and in view of the growing popularity of radios like the IC-706 and FT-100, this year, the contest will NOT only be an FM contest but also open to SSB, and CW! (Digital? Ah, wait 'till next year!)

Everyone who participated in it the last two years had a blast, and we hope to continue the tradition again this year!

So please review the rules and we'll look forward to seeing you on the 11th!

Date & Times: Saturday, January 11th, 2002 from 7 to 11 PM EST. (That's January 12th 0000-0400 UTC to the purists!)

Objectives:

- To make as many contacts as possible
- To have fun!

Band, Mode & Frequencies: The contest will take place solely on 2 meter band

FM: FM simplex only, no repeater contacts. The FM frequencies are all standard 2 Meter simplex frequencies, every **15 kHz**, from **146.535 to 146.595 MHz**, and **147.405 to 147.585 MHz**. The National Simplex Frequency, 146.520, and simplex frequencies below that are **not** to be used.

CW: 144.05 to 144.1 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

SSB: 144.2 to 144.275 MHz Only. (See ARRL 2 Meter band plan)

In the event of accidental QRM with nets and non-contest QSO's in progress, please respect their right to the frequency and QSY.

Power Limit: Maximum 50 watts output. No external amplifiers.

Exchange: Callsign, contact number, ZIP Code, and whether or not you are a Member of WASH or a Club Station. For the purposes of the contest, the 5 Digit ZIP Code for your location is sufficient — do not use the "Zip +4" code. Mobiles and portables should use the ZIP code of their location as determined to the best of their ability. Canadian stations will use their 6 digit postal code.

Example 1: "N3ZCG from N3ZEL, please copy Number 3, 15347, Member."

Example 2: "K3VX from K3CM, please copy Number 21, 16801, Non-Member"

Example 3: "W3WH from W3OC, please copy Number 7, 15137, Club Station"

Contacts: Work as many different calls and locations as possible, giving Exchange as noted above. Work each station **once** per mode, and **once** per ZIP Code — Mobiles can be reworked whenever they change locations. Remember hilltops work best!

Disqualification: Remember, this is a friendly "for fun" contest. Stations may be disqualified for infractions of the rules and for unacceptable operating practices. While not an inclusive list, stations may be disqualified for:

- FM signals transmitted on simplex channels 146.52 MHz and below .
- Intentional interference to non-contesters and established nets and QSO's
- Intentional interference to other contest operators

Scoring: Each Contact, non WASH Member: 1 point

WASH Member: 2 points

(*) Club Stations: 3 Points

Multipliers: Number of different ZIP Codes

Power: Stations running 10 watts or less: 2

Stations running over 10 watts: 1

Final Score: Total Points x Locations x Power

(*) **"Club Stations"** for the purposes of the contest are those calls assigned by the FCC or Industry Canada to **bona-fide** Amateur Radio Clubs. They include **N3SH, WA3SH, WA3COM, W3KWH, N3GC, W3PIE, K3CR, W3YA, K3HKK, W3YI, W3VC, W3PGH, W3EXW, K3MJW, NY3EC, W1AW**, etc. The call MUST be assigned as a Club Call to be eligible..

After the Contest: Fill out all the log information. In the upper left corner check whether "base" or "mobile." In the upper right corner be sure to enter your callsign and club affiliation (or "none" if not a member of any club). Please number all log sheets consecutively. Log sheets can be downloaded from the WASH web site, www.washarc.org.

Submit Log Sheets: Check your log sheets carefully for dupes. Verify that all information is entered.

Send the logs to: WASH 2 Meter Simplex Contest
Ed Oelschlager, N3ZNI
P. O. Box 254
Meadow Lands, PA 15347-0254.

Enclose a SASE #10 for return of results.

Entry Deadline: February 6th, 2002

Each log submitted with SASE on or before the deadline will receive a raffle ticket to WASHFest 2002 on February 23rd!

DX News Briefs



G3AB (ex G4ZVJ) will be QRV on 160 – 6 meters, mainly CW, as **9L1AB** from November 7th for several weeks. QSL via G3AB You will be able to e-mail requests for bureau QSL cards to andy@g3ab.net — G3AB

The **Azores** now use only the **CU** prefix block. They stopped using the **CT2** block, long ago; that block is now used in Portugal. The main prefixes for Portugal are now **CQ, CR, CS & CT** — CT2HMN

Many requests for **OHØZ** are going to the wrong address. The QSL manager is OH5DX, but the call was recently reissued to ex-OH1EH. The original OH5DX can no longer be reached. The correct address is Ari Korhonen, OH5DX, Kreetalaank. 9A1, FIN29200 Harjavalta, Finland, —OH1EH/OH5DX

YJ8MN can be QSL'd either direct or to the op's home call (JH3IIU) via the bureau. Direct to Vanuatu is preferred if you want the card quickly as Masahiro is based in Vanuatu most of the time. Direct address is Masahiro Nada PMB005, Port Vila, Rep of Vanuatu — YJ8MN, KI4RU

The Sir Francis Drake Report:

Ignore packet spots for **5Z4DZ** on 30 meters or RTTY. Kenya does not currently permit 30 meter operation, and Alex is not on RTTY yet — PA1AW

TT8FC is not on CW, only SSB, RTTY & PSK31. Any CW operation is Slim in action — W3AWU, EA4AHK

The **ZL7C** operation went QRT immediately after the end of the CQ WW SSB contest. Initial reports are that they worked 72,200 QSO's (including 5513 in the contest), which included both 6 meter QSO's into Japan and 4 EME contacts into the US from Chatham. QSL via ZL4HU — ZL2AL

7Z1AC is reported to have submitted his documentation to the ARRL. By the time you read this, the "official" word that his operation is approved for DXCC credit should have been released. QSL via WA4JTK — AB2NZ, WA4JTK

Check your DXCC printout lately? Credits for **7P/ZS6AIS** (1991) have been removed because of a lack of supporting documentation. **SØ5R** (2000) is also being rejected due to lack of documentation. — KUØA

3D2AG is now active as **FO5RK** from Rapa Island (OC 051) through November 28th. He will be on SSB & CW with some digital modes — F5NOD, VA3RJ

KH8 American Samoa is now active by a multi-national team from two different islands. **K8T** will be on Tutuila (OC 045) through November 8th, QSL via AH6HY; and **K8O** on Ofu (OC 077) through November 6th, QSL via GWØANA. Both operations will have three operators each and be running most bands and modes. — GWØANA

VK8RH will be QRV as **C21RH** November 4th to 22nd. He will be mainly on 6 meters, with have some HF activity with a vertical. QSL via VK4AAR — VK8RH

W3HNK has asked anyone who needs help confirming **EX2T, EX7ML, EX8AA** or **EX8AC** to contact him. But he is very emphatic that he is NOT their QSL Manager! Also, if you are having problems getting QSL cards from Russia, see if Joe can help, even if he's not that station's QSL manager — W3HNK

The popular **#CQDX** chat room for DXers has a new address. Regular users are asked to please reconfigure their IRC client to connect to <irc.radiochat.org>.

Information about the room and software configuration instructions can be found at <http://dx.qsl.net/cqdx>. — N6RT

QSL Routes

3V8KO via I5JHW — RA3DNC

3XY6A via VE2XO — NJ7H

5WØIR via DJ2MX — DL6KAC

8P5A via W2SC — RA3DNC

8Q7KK via HA2SX — W9OL

9M2MU via WA4JTK — W9OL

9M6DBT via WN7J — W8GC

9Q1A via F2YT — RA3DNC

9Q1L via F2YT — RA3DNC

9UØX via DJ6SI — KQ4YI

A45WD via YO9HP — XE1ZW

EW/NP3D via W3HNK — N1NK

EY9ØMT via K1BV — W9OL

GB2IOM via GØPSE — VA3RJ

IQØNK via IKØNFV — IKØLNN

L65W via LU7DW — VA3RJ

MD4K (HF) via G3NKC — G4XUM

MD4K (VHF) via GDØTEP — G4XUM

P5/4L4FN via KK5DO — W3BJ

PTØF via PY5XX — XE1ZW

R1ANF via RK1PWA — F5NOD

S21/OK1FWC via OKDXF — W3BJ

T88ZF via DK2ZF — N1NK

TL8DV via W3MC — W9OL

TM5BIB via F6KMF — VA3RJ

TO8MZ via F6BLK — VA3RJ

V63ZF via DK2ZF — N1NK

XW1HS via E21EIC — KZ2I

XY3C via DL4KQ — KA2MGE

ZC4VG via GØUVX — W9OL

Thanks to the NJDXA DX News & DX Chat Reflectors, the DX-QSL Reflector, 425 DX News, OPDX News, Diamond DX Club News, ICPO Bulletin, & ARRL DX Bulletin for our **DX News** information. Thanks also to Bill Moore NC1L / ARRL DXCC Desk, & Bernie McCleeny W3UR / The Daily DX for confirmations & additional information.



WASH Classifieds

Information shown here is as supplied to the **WASHRag**. Condition as stated, and all sales should be considered "as-is" unless otherwise noted. All subject to prior sale or withdrawal from sale at the owner's discretion. All responsibility for this information lies with the source and not the **WASHRag** or the **WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS, INC.**

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"When I die, come to Gettysburg and buy my equipment — you'll get a hell of a deal."

Every time I bring something in there, I tell my wife it costs about \$75!"

— Riley Hollingsworth K4ZDH, FCC Forum, Dayton Hamvention 2002

FYI Networks

For Your Information needs

FYI Networks, an Internet Service Provider in Pittsburgh and surrounding areas since 1995, is offering all members of **WASH** their Basic Internet account for only \$18 / month. This includes one e-mail box, 3 MB of disk space, web page hosting, Telnet and FTP access. Call FYI toll-free at 1-877-FYI-4NET, or e-mail them at sales@fyi.net, for more details or to sign up. You must mention that you are a member of the WIRELESS ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH HILLS to get the discount rate.

FYI Networks now also provides sDSL service in selected areas. **WASH** Members can get DSL for the discounted rate of only \$47.50/month. A pre-qualification must be done to see if your address is in the DSL coverage area. Call John Vasicek at 412-488-7800 for more information about FYI sDSL services & benefits.

Many thanks to FYI Networks for making these special offers available to us for the past four years!

FCC News

ARRL Web Extra & ARRL Letter, courtesy American Radio Relay League

NEWINGTON, CT, October 22nd, 2002 — The FCC this month advised several amateurs in Ohio and Michigan to avoid lengthy FM simplex QSOs on 146.52 MHz. Under the generally accepted band plan endorsed by the ARRL, 146.52 MHz is the 2-meter national calling frequency. Stations making initial contact there are expected to move to another simplex channel to continue their conversation.

"While band plans are not mandatory under the Commission's rules, the Commission depends upon them to minimize the situations in which Commission intervention is required, and they comport with good amateur practice under our rules," FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth said in letters to four amateurs in Ohio and one in Michigan.

He asked the five amateurs to review §97.101 of the FCC's Amateur Service rules, which covers general standards and mentions "good engineering and good amateur practice" as well as cooperation in the selection of transmitting channels. Band plans are informal agreements that outline how various segments of the different bands should be used. Among other things, the 2 meter band plan incorporates such standards as where repeater operation should occur in the band — as opposed to moonbounce and SSB or CW, for example. It also establishes a standard spacing between a repeater input and its output. The primary goal of a band plan is to minimize conflicts among users of different modes.

Hollingsworth told ARRL that he wrote the five amateurs on the basis of complaints about lengthy contacts in late September and early October, which averaged 45 minutes and in some cases lasted up to an hour. He said two of the amateurs he'd written already have contacted him and agreed to cooperate with the request.

"It's not the worst thing going on," Hollingsworth said this week, adding that the FCC has no intention of making band plan compliance mandatory. "I don't consider it a big deal. I'm just trying to raise awareness."

Hollingsworth reiterated that while Part 97 does not strictly prohibit holding a QSO or a roundtable on any national simplex calling frequency, band plans — to the extent that they're followed — do help to keep down friction among various users and make his job a lot easier.

NEWINGTON, CT, October 23rd, 2002 — FCC Special Counsel for Enforcement Riley Hollingsworth has told five amateurs in Ohio and Michigan to disregard his earlier admonition to avoid lengthy QSOs on 146.52 MHz. That's the generally recognized national simplex calling frequency and endorsed by the ARRL's 2-meter band plan. Acknowledging that some confusion exists within the amateur community as to whether 146.52 MHz is a national calling channel or just another simplex frequency, Hollingsworth decided to simply rescind the five advisory notices he'd sent October 15th.

"We made an error in issuing that *Advisory Notice*, and you may disregard it," Hollingsworth wrote today in letters sent to each of the affected amateurs. Commenting to ARRL, Hollingsworth was blunt yet good-natured. "I goofed," he said. "If I were worried about making a fool of myself from time to time, I never would have become a lawyer in the first place."

Amateurs commenting to the FCC and on various newsgroups reportedly were bewildered by the FCC advisory notices. An ARRL error apparently contributed to the confusion. Hollingsworth did not find 146.52 MHz singled out as the national simplex calling frequency in his edition of *The ARRL's FCC Rule Book* (12th edition, 1st printing). The designation does appear in subsequent printings of the *Rule Book*, however, as well as in recent editions of *The ARRL Operating Manual* and *The ARRL Repeater Directory 2002/2003*.

Hollingsworth says that operation that does not comply with a generally accepted band plan such as ARRL's is not illegal. He points out, however, that band plans — to the extent that they're followed — do help to keep down friction among various users and make his job a lot easier. In this case, he said, it was unclear to him that everyone accepted the notion of 146.52 MHz as the national simplex calling frequency. "In an ideal world, stations making initial contact on 146.52 MHz probably should move off to another accepted simplex channel to continue their conversation," Hollingsworth said.

Band plans are informal agreements that outline how various segments of the different bands should be used. Their primary goal is to minimize conflicts among users of different modes.

In addition to designating 146.52 MHz as the national simplex calling frequency, the ARRL band plan calls for 144.200 MHz as the national calling frequency on CW and SSB; digital simplex between 144.90 and 145.10 MHz; and FM voice simplex between 146.40 and 146.58 MHz and between 147.42 and 147.57 MHz. In some parts of the country, however, some of the frequencies within these ranges do serve as repeater inputs or outputs.



Now in our EIGHTH big year!



WASHfest 2003

The South Hills Hamfest

Sponsored by the Wireless Association of South Hills Amateur Radio Club, Inc.

Sunday, February 23rd, 2003

8:00 AM until 3:00 PM Rain or Shine (or Snow!)

Castle Shannon VFD Memorial Hall

3600 Library Road (State Route 88), Castle Shannon, PA

Talk-In on 146.955(-) and 443.650(+) 131.8 PL

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Main Prize tickets are \$2.00 each, or 3 for \$5.00 — All Prizes Subject to last-minute changes

For reservations, or information, Contact:

Steve Lane, W3SRL at (412) 341-1043 or Bill Hill, W3WH at (724) 746-1776
E-mail us directly at washarc@yahoo.com Check out our website too! www.washarc.org

Hamfest Table Reservation Form—Please PRINT LEGIBLY ALL INFORMATION

Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: () _____ - _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Call Sign: _____

Tables WITH Electricity: _____ X \$15.00 = _____

Tables WITHOUT Electricity: _____ X \$10.00 = _____

Please make all checks payable to:
WIRELESS ASSN. OF SOUTH HILLS
897 Livingston Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15216-1725

We reserve the right to resell any tables not occupied by 8 AM, unless prior arrangements have been made!

Inside This Issue:

- Comments and pictures from many of the WASH members operating in the 2002 Pennsylvania QSO Party!
 - Jeff Foxworthy, eat your heart out!
 - **Christmas / Holiday** Information!
 - Announcing **WASHFest 2002!**
 - Announcing the 3rd Annual **WASH Two Meter Contest** — not just FM this year!
- All this and more... waiting for your right inside these pages...**

**"We're
Lost, but
We're
Making
Very
Good
Time!"**



Trying to decipher
the map to figure

out how to get to there from here are Ed N3ZNI (l) and
Dave KB3GOT (r), operators of N3ZNI/M in the 2002
45th Annual Pennsylvania QSO Party.

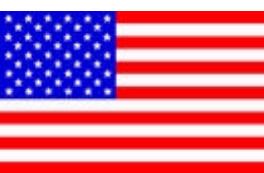
Despite such obvious navigational difficulties, they
covered a significant portion of the 33 counties in
Western Pennsylvania and made many of the contest
ops happy by giving out some real rare counties and
helped quite a few complete their Worked All County
"Clean Sweeps." Well done & congratulations to both!

More 2002 Pennsylvania QSO Party pictures inside!

Photo courtesy of and ©Copyright 2002 David M. Wagner KB3GOT

The *WASHRag*

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N3SH / WA3SH
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